

RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT

Discourses and Inclusive Pathways

An International Seminar in Honour of
Professor Deepak Nayyar



17-18 January 2026
Pune, India

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Background

Contemporary discourses and debates on development encompass a wide range of perspectives, making the understanding of development processes and pathways increasingly complex. Scholars have approached the subject through their own different lenses, including political economy, the evolving roles of the state and markets, institutional dynamics, and power relations. Traditionally, the absence of significant progress in industrialization and structural transformation has been viewed as a key factor underlying distorted labour markets and the limited creation of decent employment in developing countries. However, this is now being questioned by several economists who are advocating services-led growth models as the way forward. While macroeconomic policy remains a cornerstone of economic strategy, debates continue over its approach, objectives and areas of emphasis. Globalization and international trade have long been subjects of intense discussion, both in support and in critique, particularly in developing countries like India. In the current context of 'deglobalization' and rising trade barriers, there is a pressing need for renewed analysis and fresh insights.

Most importantly, while the outcomes of development have long been a subject of debate, this issue has gained renewed urgency in light of rising inequality. Are economic growth and human development inherently at odds, or can they be mutually reinforcing? Is it possible to effectively align economic and social policies? In today's rapidly changing and uncertain global context, the question remains: how can we chart a path toward truly inclusive development?

The two-day international seminar will debate the above issues and will also discuss alternative inclusive pathways which can lead to a sustainable, inclusive and just world. The seminar is being organised in honour of Professor Deepak Nayyar. Professor Nayyar is currently Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. He also serves as the Chairman of the Institute for Human Development (IHD) and was, until recently, the President of the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE). Both institutions have greatly benefitted from his visionary leadership. Professor Nayyar is widely regarded as one of India's most influential economists, thinkers, policymakers, and institution builders. His extensive contributions span international economics, development economics, macroeconomics, political economy, and economic history, and have earned him global recognition.

The seminar is being organised by the Institute for Human Development (IHD) in collaboration with the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) and School of Economics, Symbiosis International University on January 17-18, 2026, as a pre-conference event of the 66th Annual Conference of ISLE. ISLE Conference itself is being hosted by the School of Economics, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Pune, from January 19-21, 2026.

Themes of the Seminar

- Political Economy of Development
- Economic Growth and Structural Transformation
- Economic Development: Historical Perspectives
- Globalization and Development
- World Economy: Past Evolution, Present Problems and Future Challenges
- States and Markets in Development
- Labour, Work and Employment
- Human Development, Economic Inequality and Social Justice
- Technology, Industrialization and Development
- Pathways for Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Seminar Organisers



Conference Convenors

Jyoti Chandiramani

Director, Symbiosis School of Economics, and
Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Symbiosis

Balwant Mehta

Professor, IHD

Lakhwinder Singh

Visiting Professor, IHD

Ravi Srivastava

Director, Centre for Employment Studies, IHD

Seminar Coordinator

Priyanka Tyagi

CEO, IHD

Associate Coordinators

Jyoti Girish

Admin cum Executive officer, IHD

Chaity Sarkar

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Programme

Day 1

SATURDAY, 17 JANUARY 2026

08. 30 – 09.15 hrs	: Tea, Breakfast and Registration Venue: Tea and Breakfast: Mkahawa Café, Sandipani Registration: Foyer, Outside Room No. 9, Sandipani
09.30 – 10.00	: OPENING SESSION Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
Welcome and Opening Remarks	: Lakhwinder Singh Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi and Former Professor of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab and Seminar Convenor
	: Jyoti Chandiramani Director, Symbiosis School of Economics; Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune
About the Seminar	: Alakh N. Sharma Director, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi and President, Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE)
Reflections	: Deepak Nayyar Chairman, IHD; Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi; Former Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India

Vote of Thanks	: <p>R. P. Mamgain Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Doon University, Dehradun and Hon. Secretary, Indian Society of Labour Economics</p>
10.00 – 11.40	: <p>Session 1: Globalisation and India in the Changing Global Order</p> <p>Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani</p>
Chair	: <p>Atul Sarma Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development and Former Member, Thirteenth Finance Commission, Government of India</p>
Presentations	: <p>Dhiraj Nayyar Chief Economist, Vedanta</p> <p><i>Topic: After Globalization: India in a New World</i></p> <p>Rajeev Malhotra Senior Fellow, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Prime Ministers Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi and Visiting Professor Indian School of Business, Mohali and Hyderabad, India</p> <p><i>Topic: India's Post-1991 Macroeconomic Policy: The Challenge of Sustaining High and Quality Growth</i></p> <p>Dev Nathan Professor, Institute for Human Development, India</p> <p>Rahul S. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai</p> <p><i>Topic: Polarity in an Interregnum of the World Economy</i></p>
Discussants	: <p>N. R. Bhanumurthy Professor and Director, Madras School of Economics (MSE), Chennai</p> <p>Pravakar Sahoo Senior Lead, NITI Aayog, Government of India</p>
11.40 – 12.00	: <p>TEA</p> <p>Venue: Foyer, Outside Room No. 9, Sandipani</p>

12.00 - 13.10

: **Session 2:**

Shifting Paradigms in Development Economics

Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani

Chair

: **Indermit Gill**

Chief Economist and Senior Vice President
The World Bank, Washington DC

Presentations

: **Ravi S. Kanbur**

T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management and Professor of Economics, Cornell University

Topic: The End of Development Economics?

: **D.N. Reddy**

Institute for Human Development, and Former Professor, University of Hyderabad

Topic: The Contours of the Concept and the Theories of Economic Development

Discussant

: **Neeraj Kaushal**

Professor of Social Policy, Columbia University; Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, USA

13.10 - 14.00

: **LUNCH**

Venue: The Kitchen, Sandipani

14.00 - 15.30

: Session 3:

Growth and Employment

Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani

Chair

: **K.P. Kannan**

Hon. Fellow and Former Director, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Presentations

: **Sudipto Mundle**

Chairman, Centre for Development Studies, India

Topic: Key Pillars of an Employment Centred Growth Strategy

: **Farzana Afridi**
Professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi and
Research Fellow, IZA, Bonn
Topic: Pathways to Jobs in India

: **Jayan Jose Thomas**
Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
Topic: India's Young: Will they Transform Economic Possibilities for Asia and World?

Discussants

: **S. Madheswaran**
Adviser, Jain University; Visiting Professor, IHD, New Delhi; Former
Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore

: **Jajati K Parida**
Professor, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

15. 30 – 15.50	: TEA Venue: Foyer, Outside Sandipani
15.50 – 17.15	: Session 4: Industrial Development in India Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
Chair	: Kunal Sen Director, United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki Finland
Presentations	: Nagesh Kumar Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi <i>Topic: Towards a Manufacturing-led Transformation in India</i>
	: T.C.A. Anant Visiting Professor, IHD; Adjunct Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi and Former Secretary and Chief Statistician, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India <i>Topic: Industrial Policy for an Atmanirbhar Bharat: Reforming the Data Infrastructure</i>

	: Nitya Nanda Director, Council for Social Development, New Delhi Topic: Economic Structure, Technology Acquisition and R&D in India
Discussant	: C. Veeramani Professor and Director, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
17.15 – 17.30	: TEA Venue: Foyer, Outside Room No. 9, Sandipani
17.30 – 19.30	: Session 5: Structural Change and Economic Transformation Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
Chair	: Ram Singh Professor and Director, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
Presentations	: Ashwani Saith Institute for Human Development, and formerly with International Institute of Social Studies, India Topic: Revisiting Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour
	: Vinoj Abraham Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala Topic: Structural Transformation and the Rise of Mixed Livelihoods in Rural India: Regional Fault lines
	: Arindam Banerjee Professor and Dean, School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University Topic: Reimagining the Agrarian Question in India with Ecology
	: Bino Paul Tata Institute for Social Science, Mumbai Topic: Labour and Emerging Circular Economy in India
Discussants	: Alakh N. Sharma Director, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi and President, Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE)
	: Lakhwinder Singh Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi and Former Professor of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab
1945	: Felicitation Dinner for Professor Deepak Nayyar Venue: On Sandipani Deck

Day 2
SUNDAY, 18 JANUARY 2026

07.30 – 08.45 hrs	: Tea And Breakfast Venue: Mkahawa Café, Sandipani
09.00 – 10.10	: Session 6: Poverty in Global South: Experiences of Mozambique and India Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
Chair	: S. Mahendra Dev Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
Presentations	: Finn Tarp Professor, Department of Economics, Development Economics Research Group, University of Copenhagen <i>Topic: What's Happening to Poverty in Mozambique – and why?</i>
	: Himanshu Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Topic: What Happened to Poverty in India After 2011-12?</i>
Discussant	: S. Chandrasekhar Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai
10.10 – 11.15	: Session 7: The Challenge of Increasing Inequality Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
Chair	: Imraan Valodia Pro Vice-Chancellor and Director, Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS), University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), South Africa
Presentations	: Kaushik Basu Professor of Economics, Cornell University, USA, and former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank, Washington DC and Former Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India <i>Topic: Inequality: A Global Challenge</i>
	: Alexandre Barbosa Professor University of São Paulo (USP) and Institute of Brazilian Studies (IEB), São Paulo <i>Topic: Development, Dependency and Inequality: A Latin American Perspective</i>

Discussant	: Ravi Srivastava Professor and Director, Centre for Employment Studies, IHD, New Delhi
11.15 – 11.30	: Tea Venue: Foyer, Outside Room No. 9, Sandipani
11.30 – 13.30	: Session 8: Artificial Intelligence, Development and the Future of Work Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
Chair	: Praveen Jha Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Presentations	: Gaurav Nayyar Director, World Development Report 2026, Artificial Intelligence for Development, World Bank, Washington DC Topic: Digital Technologies, Trade, and Development: Where are We Headed with AI?
	: Ajit Ranade Economist, Former Chief Economist and Vice President, Aditya Birla Group and Former Vice Chancellor, Gokhale, Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune Topic: Will AI deepen or Reduce inequality?
	: Sher Verick Advisor to the Deputy Director General International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva Topic: AI's Impact on Jobs: Do We need to Rethink the Future of Work?
	: Uma Rani Senior Economist, International Labour Institute (ILO) Geneva Topic: Human Cogs in the AI machine: Experiences of Data Annotation and Content Moderation Workers in the BPO Sector in India and Kenya
Discussants	: Jeemol Unni Professor, Economics and Public Policy Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad
	: Balwant Singh Mehta Professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi

13.30 – 14.10	: Lunch Venue: The Kitchen, Sandipani
14. 10 – 16.20	: Session 9: Roundtable on Development Discourses and Inclusive Pathways Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
Moderator	: Rama Bijapurkar Business Advisor and Author
Panelists	: Ramesh Chand Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India : Indermit Gill Chief Economist and Senior Vice President The World Bank, Washington DC : Kaushik Basu Professor of Economics, Cornell University, USA, and former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank, Washington DC and Former Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India : Renana Jhabvala President, SEWA Bharat : Sachin Chaturvedi Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University : Swaminathan Aiyan Senior Journalist and Research Fellow, Cato Institute, Washington, DC
16. 20 – 16.50	: Closing Session Venue: Room No. 9, Sandipani
About the Seminar Deliberations	: Ravi Srivastava Professor and Director, Centre for Employment Studies IHD, New Delhi and Seminar Convenor
Seminar and Beyond: Thinking Ahead	: Deepak Nayyar Chairman, IHD; Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi; Former Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India
Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks	: Ritu Dewan Visiting Professor, IHD and Former Conference President, ISLE; and former Director, Department of Economics, University of Mumbai

16. 50 - 17.15	: Tea Venue: Mandapam at Hill Top, SIU
17.15- 1930	: 66th ISLE Pre-Conference Panel New Technologies and Employment: Comparative Perspectives from Emerging Economies of The Global South Organisers: Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS), WITS University, Johannesburg and Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi Venue: Auditorium, Symbiosis International University (SIU)
Chair	: Deepak Nayyar Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Former Vice Chancellor, Delhi University; and Chairman, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi
Panelists	: Uma Rani Senior Economist, Research Department, International Labour Organisation, Geneva <hr/> : Alexandre Barbosa University of São Paulo (USP). Institute of Brazilian Studies (IEB) <hr/> : Imraan Valodia Pro Vice-Chancellor and Director, Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS), University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), South Africa Topic: Technology and Labour Market Trends in a High Unemployment Context: Perspectives from South Africa <hr/> : Ravi Srivastava Director, Centre for Employment Studies, IHD, New Delhi Topic: Young Workers, Technology and Employment: Perspectives from India <hr/> : Maria Monica Wihardja Visiting Fellow and Co-coordinator, Media, Technology and Society Programme, ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute and Adjunct Faculty, National University of Singapore

Discussants

: **Ravi S. Kanbur**

T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management and Professor of Economics, Cornell University

: **Kunal Sen**

Director, United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland

1930

: **Dinner**

Venue: Mandapam at Hill Top, SIU

Abstracts of Presentations/ Papers

Session 1: Globalisation and India in the Changing Global Order

After Globalization: India in a New World

Dhiraj Nayyar, Chief Economist, Vedanta

The era of globalization that was dominant in the world's political economy for four decades since the early 1980s is over. The US Presidency of Donald Trump is the apparent force behind the tearing down of the global order but there are other reasons for the fall of globalization, particularly the actions of the world's second largest economy, China.

In a new world of uncertainty, India has lost its sweet spot in geopolitics and geoconomics. However, it remains the fastest growing major economy in the world, for now. In a changed scenario, what must India do to continue on its path of high growth? Many of the things it has tended to ignore in the era which has passed by. This presentation examines five things India needs to do in a Trumpian world.

India's Post-1991 Macroeconomic Policy: The Challenge of Sustaining High and Quality Growth

Rajeev Malhotra, Senior Fellow, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Prime Ministers Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi and Visiting Professor Indian School of Business, Mohali and Hyderabad, India

Unlike the short-term and narrow preoccupation of macroeconomic policy on economic stabilisation in industrialised countries, its focus in a developing country like India must be broader and supportive of a growth oriented long-term development strategy. The macroeconomic policies in the latter cannot remain confined to short-term management of macroeconomic balances - the internal and the external balance of the economy. The macroeconomic constraints on growth operate across multiple time horizons. The consequences of short-term policies, such as a lingering contractionary fiscal or monetary policy, may have a long-run impact on capacity augmentation, and therefore on the economy's growth prospects. Similarly, a rigid focus on long-run growth objective may have implications for inflation or balance of payments management in the short-term, undermining investor confidence in the economy. In both instances there are consequences for the wellbeing of people. The paper presents an assessment of India's conduct of macroeconomic policy since the economic reforms undertaken in early 1990s, against this need to strike a balance between the short-term and the medium to long run policy objectives. It traces trends in macroeconomic aggregates over the past more than three decades and reflects on the underlying fundamentals of the economy, including the inadequate growth in employment opportunities. Although there has been continuity in the core policy and its direction over this period, there were several instances when policymakers challenged by developments originating both outside and within the economy had to depart from conventional policy options.

The paper examines the impact of those measures and the extent to which the capacity of the economy to sustain a high economic growth in the medium to long run has been undermined. It assesses the recent attempt at reworking the industrial policy to give impetus to the structural transformation of the economy, improving livelihood opportunities and to address uncertainties related to supply of critical imports due to geo-political disruptions. In that context, the paper argues that more could be done to rebalance domestic growth drivers and identifies steps that could be taken in that regard.

Polarity in an Interregnum of the World Economy

Dev Nathan, Professor, Institute for Human Development, India

Rahul S., Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

The world economy is in an interregnum, i.e. it is seeing the end of one world and the beginning of another world. However, from the unipolar hegemony of the United States, are we moving to a bi-polar world or a multi-polar world? In India there is a wide and hopeful understanding that we are moving into, if not already in, a multi-polar world. This paper deals with the way we can understand and measure polarity in the world economy. From this empirical analysis the paper shows that we have moved from a (US unipolar) to a bipolar (USA and China) world economy. The existence of some other economies (such as Japan, Germany, the UK and India) as smaller centres of knowledge creation, and many other centres of accumulation in the Global South as a whole, means that there is some weakening of any new unipolar power.

Session 2: Shifting Paradigms in Development Economics

The End of Development Economics?

Ravi S. Kanbur, T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management and Professor of Economics, Cornell University

I trace the arc of development economics from Lewis/Hirschman/Myrdal to Banerjee/Duflo/Kremer. I argue that the distinguishing features of the sub-discipline have become less and less marked. This is because (i) income and non-income differentiators between "developed" and "developing" have become less distinct and (ii) the methodological differentiators have also become attenuated, at least in mainstream economics. I raise the twin questions of whether development economics as a sub discipline will simply wither on the vine, and whether this is good or bad for analysis and for policy

The Contours of the Concept and the Theories of Economic Development

D.N. Reddy, Institute for Human Development, and Former Professor, University of Hyderabad

This paper is essentially a review of the growing dissonance between the evolving contours of the concept of development and the theories of economic development resulting in the fragmented strategies of development. The concept of 'development' has evolved, even though growth of GDP per capita dominated official assessments. A large body of literature has highlighted the limitations of per capita GDP as a measure of development, since it is an average that conceals rather than reveal how income is distributed across people, regions and social groups; that it is all about production without revealing the external and social costs, etc. More fundamentally, GDP per capita reflect the means people have, not what they are actually able to achieve with those means (Sen 1988). Sen's work shifted the focus to improving the human condition by enhancing peoples' 'capabilities' to lead lives they value.

The capability based approach informed the concept that led to the measure of 'human development' that emphasizes education and health besides material living standard. Parallel efforts expanded the understanding of development through concepts like "sustainable development" (Brundtland Commission 1987) and "well-being" (Stiglitz Commission 2008). While "sustainable development" assumed growing significance in the context of "climate change", "well-being" as a multidimensional measure in an endeavor to shift attention from national economic output to household income and consumption including public provisioning of health and education, as well as qualitative discussions such as inequality, and resilience to climate change. Indeed a formidable challenge to the epistemic of the theory of economic development.

Though "development" has formed concern of all classical political economists from William Petty and David Hume to Adam Smith and David Ricardo to J.S. Mill and Karl Marx, the origin of the "modern" theories of economic development are largely a post-World War II phenomenon. In a seminal paper, Rosenstein-Rodan (1943) argued for a separate discipline of "Development Economics", pointing out the limitations of the Neoclassical economics in addressing the characteristic conditions of underdeveloped

countries and the need for separate theoretical analysis of 'economic development'. Since there have been a number of theories of economic development, which for the sake of the present analysis may be broadly divided into two groups: one, which may be characterized as the "Mainstream Theories of Economic Development" (MTED), and the other, "Neo-Marxist Theories of Economic Development" (NTED). The basic differences between the MTED and the NTED lies in the differentiation of the process of economic development, i.e. the former explains it as a unilinear process of countries moving from the state of 'underdevelopment' to that of 'development' i.e. becoming lie the 'developed'. The latter set of theories reject the linear notion that underdevelopment is a preceding condition, development process is one of "creating a world" of the image of the developed and argue that 'underdevelopment' is a creation of world capitalist development.

The paper reviews the major Mainstream theories from "balance growth" (Rosenstein-Rodan, 1943), (with apologies for abbreviated tone) "Vicious circle" theory (Nurkse, 1961), "unbalanced" growth (Hirschman, 1958), "Dualism" theory (Lewis, 1954), "Stage Theory" (Rostow, 1960) etc. A common thread that is critical to these theories in stimulating development is increase in accumulation *Visiting Professor, IHD and Professor of Economics (Rtd.), University of Hyderabad.

(savings and investment) and the structural change (Fisher 1939, Clark 1951 and Kuznets 1966) from subsistence (agriculture) dominant to capitalist (industrial stage). This is followed by the Neo-Marxist theories beginning with Paul Baran's (1973) "D-development" brought about by the capitalist penetration through colonization, A.G.Frank's (1971) analysis of the 'development of underdevelopment', Wallerstein's (1974) world capitalist system with the developed core 'and the underdeveloped periphery', and the 'dependence theory' of Doas Santos (1974).

By late 1970s and early 1980s there was growing disenchantment with the Mainstream theories of economic development because of the fact that in many developing countries there has been increase in accumulation (savings and investments) beyond 15% of the GDP, and there was consistent growth of about 5% in many developing countries but there was sign of these countries becoming industrial in terms of structural change, but with the persistence of poverty and unemployment and increasing inequalities. Nor was there the "delinking" of these peripheries from the capitalist core. There was no sign of these economies catching up with the ambitious notions of development as "well-being" of people or any foundation for "sustainable development". In the case of Neo-Marxist theories the expected "delink" was hard in evidence. The epistemic inadequacy of the theories to match the broadening of the contours of development has resulted in the extreme alternative strategies emanating in the form of "counter revolution" that attributes the development dissonance to state intervention which is the core of all development theories-left or not so left-and comes out with an assertion of Neo-liberal 'structural adjustment programmes' (SAP), (Deepak Lal 1983). The following observation by A.G.Frank (1996) sums up the dilemma of development: "Really important matters in 'development' are 'political'. Because political change seemed difficult, if not impossible, to achieve through reform, the obvious answer seemed to be the need to start change through political revolution. It became increasingly clear to me that all development studies and thinking of US origin, including my own, were not at all part of the solution to development problems. Instead, they were themselves really part of the problem, because they sort to deny and obscure bot the real problem and real solution, which lay in politics."

Session 3: Growth and Employment

Key Pillars of an Employment Centred Growth Strategy

Sudipto Mundle, Chairman, Centre for Development Studies, India

India is the fastest growing major economy in the world, yet the growth of unemployment is also very high. This paradox is attributable to the Mahalanobis strategy of heavy industries led growth which India adopted from the 2nd Five Year Plan and onwards. It forced the pace of capital-intensive growth in non-agriculture, containing labour migration from agriculture mainly to low skill jobs in informal industry and services. A corollary of this strategy was to neglect basic education, prioritise tertiary education to produce highly skilled white collar workers for a capital intensive formal sector. However, the required volume of such workers was limited. After decades of such growth, India faces rapid growth of unemployment (or underemployment), a large share of workers still trapped in low productivity agriculture and the rest mostly employed in low skill, low productivity jobs in the informal sector outside agriculture. This employment profile cannot be changed overnight.

To address this challenge, India must pivot to an employment centred growth strategy based on three pillars: i. a short-run policy to incentivize the growth of employment intensive sectors outside agriculture mostly requiring low skill, low productivity workers. This matches the present skill profile of the bulk of India's workforce. ii. a medium-to-long term policy of establishing a University Technical College (UCT) system, based on the German gymnasium and UK UCT systems, led by the private sector, to prepare a highly skilled, artificial intelligence savvy Indian workforce for the future. iii. In agriculture diversification to less water intensive, high valued crops, horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry to promote sustainable, high productivity agriculture.

Pathways to Jobs in India

Farzana Afridi, Professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi and Research Fellow, IZA, Bonn

The story of India's economic trajectory has been a hopeful one over the last four decades, buoyed by the liberalisation of the 1990s, but tempered by the global crises of 2008 and 2020. The world's most populated country enjoys favourable expectations of strong economic performance in the coming future, in terms of the size of the economy (third largest in the world by 2027 according to Ernst & Young 2023), its gross domestic product (US\$ 7 trillion by 2030 according to Economic Survey 2023) and high economic growth rate. However, there has been growing concern with India's ability to productively engage its large and growing youthful population. Since 2017-18 the working age population of India has increased by about 9 crores, while formal sector jobs rose by 6 crores – a deficit of 50 lakh jobs, annually. Most of the recent increase in employment has come either from self-employment in rural areas or from informal services. Concerns regarding India's slow transition from low- to high-productivity activity, and the pressing need for 'good jobs' abound. Hence both the quality and the quantity of work opportunities are under strain with a rising working age population.

We focus on the manufacturing and services sectors, and the more labor intensive sub-sectors therein, for job creation in India. We first highlight constraints on the both sides of the labour market – demand and supply – in creating job opportunities for reaching the target of Viksit Bharat. Simulation exercises to project the number of jobs that can be created through output growth in labour intensive manufacturing and services sub-sectors between 2025 and 2030, show that inter-sectoral linkages can have a multiplicative effect on employment in the aggregate economy. At the same time, investment in formal skilling that increases the share of skilled workforce by 12 pp can lead to more than a 13% increase in employment in the labour intensive sectors by 2030. We conclude with policy prescriptions to boost aggregate demand and workforce skilling.

India's Young: Will they Transform Economic Possibilities for Asia and World?

Jayan Jose Thomas, Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

The young in India and South Asia -- who made up 21% and 29%, respectively, of the global population aged 15-29 in 2020 -- can be a fulcrum for future global economic growth.

However, this paper, which is based on an analysis of Indian and international data on population and the labour market, points to several challenges. Export demand, one of the primary drivers of East Asia's industrial success, is likely to weaken as Western economies grow sluggishly and tariff barriers rise. In South Asia, employment growth has lagged behind income growth and the expansion of the labour supply. Large social and economic inequalities exist within the region, stifling demand. It is clear that the future economic and employment growth of South Asia should be based much more on the incomes generated within these countries, and less on export demand from outside. What that requires is a virtuous cycle of more jobs, higher incomes and greater domestic demand. India today has 120 million students in high schools and colleges, who can form a powerful engine for future knowledge-driven growth. Harnessing their potential requires far-reaching reforms in India's social, industrial, and macroeconomic policies.

Session 4: Towards a Manufacturing-led Transformation in India

Industrial Development in India

Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

Manufacturing-led transformation has been an important pathway to prosperity globally, employed by developed countries such as the US, Germany, and Japan, as well as newly industrialised countries such as the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and China. As India embarks on achieving its aspirations to achieve a developed country status by 2047, the manufacturing sector seems to be an answer to creating decent jobs for its youthful population and fostering inclusive prosperity. There is also a realisation that high dependence on imports of manufactured goods can compromise the nation's strategic autonomy. Hence, the government has lined up a full bouquet of reforms, Make-in-India and PLI incentives, ease-

of-doing business, industrial corridors and other infrastructure, and promotional\ measures. In that context, this presentation will explore opportunities in the manufacturing sector that are available to India. It will identify the challenges that India faces, including those arising from the external context that has turned less benign than it was when countries like China were building their manufacturing capacities. The presentation will close by underlining a set of policy reforms and strategic interventions that are needed to tap these opportunities.

Industrial Policy for an Atmanirbhar Bharat: Reforming the Data Infrastructure

T.C.A. Anant, Visiting Professor, IHD; Adjunct Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi and
Former Secretary and Chief Statistician, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

Industrial policy in India is often discussed through the lens of visible interventions—production-linked incentives, tariffs, sectoral promotion, or technology missions. While these instruments matter, this lecture argues that some of the most consequential industrial policies operate far more quietly, embedded in India's data systems, macroeconomic frameworks, and measurement priorities. If Atmanirbhar Bharat is understood as a project of structural transformation rather than narrow self-sufficiency, then industrial policy must include reforming the data infrastructure that shapes how the economy is seen, debated, and governed.

Economic statistics are not passive descriptions of reality; they function as policy infrastructure. Indicators such as GDP, Consumer Price Inflation, and Employment organise attention, legitimise certain priorities, and marginalise others. When these metrics are misaligned, policy struggles to gain traction—even when explicit interventions are in place.

Drawing on Indian experience, the lecture highlights key measurement blind spots that weaken manufacturing-led structural transformation. It shows how macroeconomic policy, such as inflation targets, serves as a de facto industrial policy. The policy prioritises consumer price stability but understates supply-side pressures, including interest costs, energy volatility, logistics, and compliance burdens. As a result, macroeconomic stability may coexist with persistent uncertainty in industrial investment, shaping risk-taking and long-term capability-building. The lecture highlights why reforming data infrastructure is not a technical afterthought but a core element of industrial strategy. Seeing the economy clearly, the lecture suggests, is itself an act of policy.

Economic Structure, Technology Acquisition and Research and Development in India

Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development, New Delhi

Investment in research and development (R&D) is crucial for sustaining economic growth on a long-term basis. India has been maintaining high economic growth for a sufficiently long time. However, its investment in R&D remains quite low. This raises concerns that sooner or later the Indian economy

might hit a roadblock and get into a middle-income trap when costs can become too high for low-end manufacturing to grow, yet technological capability might not be high enough for high-value exports. While structural reasons, in the sense of the low share of manufacturing in the economy, might be an important factor, Indian entrepreneurs have been showing preference for imported technologies rather than developing their own. This strategy has its limit and might not serve well in the long run. While the Indian government has increased its allocation for R&D, this alone might not be enough and the main challenge is to increase business R&D which is quite low compared to other countries. While India has developed an elaborate Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, it also needs to include more effective incentive structure in its industrial policy.

Session 5: Structural Change and Economic Transformation

Revisiting Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour

Ashwani Saith, Institute for Human Development, and formerly with International Institute of Social Studies, India

Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour, the paper by W. Arthur Lewis published in The Manchester School in 1954, has deservedly become a classic and has widely informed subsequent development discourse, analysis and policy. A key element of Lewis's contribution is the notion of a "turning point", an inflexion point which signals the exhaustion of surplus, underemployed labour in the agricultural sector comprising peasants. This concept has been widely used in analyses and interpretations of the development trajectories of several early and late developing economies. How well does Lewis's original contribution withstand the passing of 70 years? Arguably, while its core argument might carry explanatory power in interpreting the experience of early developers, it seems to carry only partial validity for most late developing economies. In addition, the depictions of the peasant sector and the rural-urban migration process raise some issues for critical reflection.

Structural Transformation and the Rise of Mixed Livelihoods in Rural India: Regional Fault lines

Vinoj Abraham, Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

This paper examines the nature and regional diversity of structural change in rural India, with a particular focus on the evolution of rural non-farm employment (RNFE) and household livelihood strategies. Drawing on unit-level data from multiple rounds of the Employment- Unemployment Surveys (EUS), Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS), and National Accounts Statistics, the study analyses long-term trends in employment composition, wages, and household types across states. Contrary to the expectations of classical structural transformation models, the share of RNFE in rural employment has stagnated at around 40 per cent for more than a decade, with recent evidence of partial reverse mobility into agriculture.

The analysis shows that RNFE expansion has neither generated sustained intersectoral labour mobility nor delivered durable wage gains. Instead, narrowing wage differentials across sectors, declining RNFE opportunities in construction, agro-processing, trade, and services, and rising unpaid family labour indicate a shift towards livelihood diversification rather than transformation. Rural households increasingly adopt mixed employment strategies, combining agricultural and non-agricultural activities as a form of risk mitigation in the face of agricultural shocks, income volatility, and weak demand-side growth. These patterns vary sharply across regions, with southern states exhibiting relatively stronger farm-to-non-farm transitions, while much of the rest of India displays persistent agrarian distress and adaptive diversification. The findings underscore the limits of India's rural transformation and highlight the emergence of mixed livelihoods as a defining feature of contemporary rural labour markets. The study also refers to the persistence of feudal/semi-feudal agrarian relations in parts of rural India.

Reimagining the Agrarian Question in India with Ecology

Arindam Banerjee, Professor and Dean, School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University

The agrarian development in post-independent India has been a contested terrain. Land distribution, social relations and technology have shaped the trajectory of how farming and food systems have developed in the country. Industrial style chemical intensive farming using HYV seeds has led the country from severe food crisis to a food-exporting nation over half a century. However, this has generated many new challenges ranging from the efficacy of fertilizer-use, depleting groundwater tables in critical agrarian regions, nitrogen emissions, water contamination and eutrophication, monocultures, loss of biodiversity and dietary diversity, persistent hunger, to name a few. In addition, climate change poses challenges regarding the sustainability to the specific agriculture- food complex including the public distribution system in India, through multiple channels. Simultaneously, economic liberalization and increasing corporatization of the agri-food systems has altered the political economy of how farmers engage with the upstream and downstream markets and institutions. The question of livelihoods in the wider agrarian economy is also crucial in the context of the larger employment situation in the Indian economy.

This paper attempts to reimagine the agrarian question within a 'triple function framework' of provisioning adequate food for the population, generating meaningful livelihoods and restoring ecological balance. This is undertaken through an analysis of production processes in agriculture, ecological challenges and the political economy of employment generation in the economy. The paper argues that it is imminent to restructure agriculture and associated activities towards sustainable practices, both ecologically and socially. There is a dire need for a dialogue and integration of political economy concerns with agroecological questions and a commensurate institutional overhaul, for moving towards a sustainable future that can simultaneously address the concerns around hunger, livelihoods and Nature.

Labour and Emerging Circular Economy in India

Bino Paul, Professor, Tata Institute for Social Science, Mumbai

Globally, there has been growing engagement with the circular economy and with building systems. It resonates with the governance of value chains, covering upstream and downstream activities. This transition arises from the complexity of the growth process. As economic activities expand and diversify, the sustainable treatment of waste emerges as both an opportunity and a challenge. Primarily, its interdependence with socio-economic, environmental, and technological factors relies heavily on labour and skills. In the global south, especially in India, a large part of the labour force in the circular economy is informal, and they face precarious working and living conditions. Electronic waste is an interesting case in point.

Despite its sustainability implications, decent employment remains a mirage in core activities such as material recovery. A progressive upgrading of labourers' lives and opportunities, especially in skills and entitlements, will be a pivotal factor in creating a sustainable circular economy in India. While it generates decent jobs, it puts the economy on a path toward a sustainable transition. We assess the recent evidence to understand the potential of the circular economy and the role of labour in it.

Session 6: Poverty in Global South: Experiences of Mozambique and India

What's Happening to Poverty in Mozambique – and why?

Finn Tarp, Professor, Department of Economics, Development Economics Research Group, University of Copenhagen

After decades of war, Mozambique experienced sustained economic growth and poverty reduction from the mid-1990s. However, these positive dynamics started to reverse from 2015. Meanwhile, inequality stagnated in the period 1996/97–2008/09.

The absence of officially published poverty estimates in recent years has led to a debate about the evolution of poverty in Mozambique. Based on five rounds of data from the national household surveys covering the period 1996–97 to 2022, this presentation revisits what we know and what we don't know, discussing some of the most relevant indicators of poverty and inequality and their trends in Mozambique over the last almost three decades.

Starting in the second half of 2015, a deep economic crisis hit, which had many causes. Economic growth plummeted and the national currency devalued significantly, leading to a general increase in prices, especially food prices. Since food products account for more than half of the consumption of poor families, and a high percentage of households are net food buyers, the food price rise is a major factor behind recent developments. I discuss trends in inequality and find that until 2014/15, consumption increased for the whole population, but it did so much more for richer households;

conversely, in the last few years, consumption has reduced across the distribution, leading to some decrease in inequality, in part due to the impact of Covid-19. However, the relative consumption-gap between better- and worse-off people has continued to increase. I finally comment on the challenging issues that are core and centre to choices we as analysts make when trying to grips with what is happening and why.

What Happened to Poverty in India After 2011-12?

Himanshu, Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Estimates of poverty in India post-2011/12 are subject to heated public and scholarly debate. The first official, nationally representative consumption survey after 2011/12 to be publicly released pertains to 2022/23. While this survey was also administered and fielded by India's National Sample Survey Organization, the resulting consumption aggregate cannot be directly compared to that from the 2011/12 round due to far-reaching changes in consumption definition, questionnaire design, sampling, and survey organization. Moreover, since 2011/12 there has been no officially endorsed poverty line that updates the 2011/12 line with respect to inflation and spatial price variation. We confront these problems of non-comparability by employing survey-to-survey imputation methods in which consumption is predicted into the data for 2022/23 based on consumption models calibrated using data from 2011/12. We consider a range of model specifications and employ both the NSSO consumption surveys and Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS). The latter allow us to also track poverty during the years between 2017 and 2022/3. All estimates indicate a significant slowing of poverty decline between 2011/12 and 2022/23 compared to the preceding decade. We report state-level trends alongside aggregate trends. We show that there have been sharp differences across states in their achievement of poverty decline.

Session 7: The Challenge of Increasing Inequality

Inequality: A Global Challenge

Kaushik Basu, Professor of Economics, Cornell University, USA, and former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank, Washington DC and Former Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India

Global economic inequality can be measured in many ways. If we use a measure of the gap between the super-rich and the average person, or the super-rich and the bottom half of the income spectrum, inequality has now reached historically high levels in many parts of the world. This is worrying in itself, but in today's digital world it has created an additional problem: it allows a few individuals to capture the space for voice and influence and damages democracy by robbing ordinary people of their voice. The lecture will discuss this problem of our times, and what we can do to counter this challenge.

Development, Dependency and Inequality: A Latin American Perspective

Alexandre Barbosa, Professor University of São Paulo (USP) and Institute of Brazilian Studies (IEB), São Paulo

From his many important books and articles, *Catch Up: Developing Countries in the World Economy*, published in 2013, stands out as an important contribution in the field of development economics. Combining erudition and aiming at a wider audience, Nayyar offers a long-term perspective of the world economy, through a complex analysis that connects economic history and political economy. The result is an understanding of how the “great divergence” took place from 1820 to 1950, redefining the international division of labour. The ascent of capitalism in the North Atlantic region leads to the deindustrialization of India and China and a subordinate integration of Africa and Latin America as primary goods exporters, even though the former experience a wider share in world GDP during the period.

The very process that led to the emergence of the so-called Third World and the large periphery of the world economic is carefully depicted, as well as the different ways the wide group of developing countries – encompassing 2/3 of the world population by 1950 – are engaged in international division of labour. From 1950 to 2008, Nayyar shows a different context of increasing convergence taking place at least in economic terms. However, this is an unequal process, mostly due to the rise of the Southeastern Asia and China. Actually, everywhere now, and even in the once so-called developed economies, we experience, by different means, a non-virtuous triangular relationship between growth, inequality and poverty.

Taking advantage of the debates held with other prestigious scholars such as Lance Taylor, Joseph Stiglitz, Ha-Joon Chang, Amit Bhaduri and Alice Amsden, among many others, and exploring the incredible set of historical data produced by Angus Madison, Nayyar offers us a motion picture of the engines of the capitalist world-economy taking shape and reorganizing the international division of labour.

We could enlarge the debate bringing to the roundtable Fernand Braudel, Celso Furtado, Immanuel Wallerstein and Giovanni Arrighi. What was behind the transformation of the European world-economy, that got momentum and by its unfolding, nurtured by the intra-state and intra-capital competition from 16th to 18th centuries, led to the process of endless capital accumulation as firstly theorized by Karl Marx? How come a single historical system took place in the 19th century, for the first time operating as a single world-system?

How different were the relationships established between the core, the semi-periphery and the periphery – the structural positions of the capitalist world-economy – once we moved from the UK to the US centred global economies in the 19th and 20th centuries, respectively. Do these hegemonic cycles have anything to do with the possibilities of engagement from the vast “developing world”, which has become increasingly industrialized since 1950, as Nayyar shows up with different data.

In 1978, the Brazilian economist Celso Furtado wrote a book – later published in English with the following title: “Accumulation and development, the logic of industrial civilization” (Martin Robertson, 1983). There he also gives a sort a long-term picture of capitalism, from its emergence, by virtue of

the bourgeois revolution and the unleashing of productive forces, to its diffusion to the now-called dependent economies, as a byproduct of economic domination. Going beyond the realm of economics, he shows how political authoritarianism, economic dependence and cultural hegemony exerted by the great powers of the time, led to a very polarized capitalist world-economy. In his regard, a possibility of change came from below, as a new actor entered in the front stage, the “periphery”, or what is now usually labelled as the “Global South”.

The rise of China reshuffles the engines of the capitalist world-economy drastically, mostly likely doing away with the convergence/divergence dynamic between the “developing world” and the “developed world”. The triangular relationship between growth, inequality and poverty is redefined everywhere, with different sorts of combination in which inequality usually rises and the other variables change according to the development patterns. Indeed, the Latin-Americanization of the world, this is the risk we face today – not a good perspective, indeed, as this happens to be by far the most unequal region of the world.

Session 8: Artificial Intelligence, Development and the Future of Work

Digital Technologies, Trade, and Development: Where are We Headed with AI?

Gaurav Nayyar, Director, World Development Report 2026, Artificial Intelligence for Development, World Bank, Washington DC

Historically, changes at the intersection of technology and trade—starting with steam-powered engines that greatly reduced transportation costs during the late 18th century—have had an important association with evolving comparative advantage and therefore patterns of specialization. More recently, the spread of information and communication technologies (ICT) at the end of the 20th century enabled global production fragmentation by lowering coordination costs. This provided developing economies with the opportunity to industrialize through their participation in global value chains. Today, the development of artificial intelligence (AI), advanced robotics, and machine-to-machine communication heralds the start of a second, more advanced wave of digitalization, which is blurring the line between the physical and virtual worlds.

These digital technologies also have the potential to reduce the importance of labour costs in production. As a result, changes in trade and specialization patterns for developing economies (where labor is relatively abundant) will depend on how digital technologies affect trade costs, on the one hand, and the share of labor costs, on the other hand. The contention is that ICT lowered trade costs faster than it lowered the share of labor costs in production, especially in developing economies where low-skilled labor is relatively abundant; ICT largely automated clerical work and other middle-skilled jobs. However, industrial automation through robots, 3D printing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) is lowering the share of labor costs in production, especially for low-skilled workers in the manufacturing sector,

more than it is lowering trade costs. The large reduction in trade costs for manufactured goods came with containerization, air cargo, and ICT. Looking ahead, AI might significantly lower both trade costs and the share of labor costs in production. The reduction in trade costs can come on account of AI lowering communication costs, including by reducing language barriers. The reduction in the labor cost share resulting from AI-led automation is particularly applicable for cognitive tasks that are especially prevalent across a range of internationally traded ICT, professional, scientific, and technical services. As a result, countries with a comparative advantage in exporting these knowledge-intensive services might be most at risk.

Will AI deepen or Reduce inequality?

Ajit Ranade, Economist, Former Chief Economist and Vice President, Aditya Birla Group and Former Vice Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is often framed as a disruptive force that may deepen existing inequalities in income, wealth, opportunity, and global power. Yet the same technology also carries the latent capacity to democratise expertise, flatten productivity hierarchies, and enable latecomer economies and individuals to leapfrog structural disadvantages. We look at the evidence and examine AI's dual potential—as an amplifier of inequality, and as a leveller capable of weakening the advantages of incumbency.

There can be at least three primary channels through which AI risks widening inequality: labour-market displacement of routine and even high-skill cognitive work; capital-biased technological change that shifts income from labour to intangible-asset owners; and the concentration of data, compute infrastructure and intellectual property within a small number of global firms and advanced economies. These dynamics could entrench "winner-take-most" outcomes unless mediated by policy, competition, and governance frameworks.

In the counter-hypothesis it is proposed that AI could also significantly reduce inequality. Generative AI has been shown to improve the productivity of lower-skilled workers disproportionately, shrinking performance gaps in real-world experiments. AI tutors, healthcare diagnostics, coding assistants and multilingual translation systems reduce barriers of geography, language, education and capital, expanding access to services, entrepreneurship and innovation at scale. For emerging economies, AI offers potential for leapfrogging in public service delivery, industrial capability, and knowledge creation.

The core argument is therefore not whether AI increases or decreases inequality, but what institutional choices and policies determine the net impact of AI. How do we make public policy choices that ensure AI's benefits diffuse widely: open ecosystems, broad access to skills, fair data governance, competition policy, and global cooperation. AI can become either a great divider or a great equaliser, and policy matters in this outcome.

AI's Impact on Jobs: Do We need to Rethink the Future of Work?

Sher Verick, Advisor to the Deputy Director General International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has created considerable hype surrounding its potential to transform economies and labour markets over the coming years. As witnessed during previous periods of technological change, the fear is that AI will displace millions of jobs through the automation of tasks, particularly in non-routine, cognitive jobs that were more insulated from earlier automation. However, ILO's research on (generative) AI suggests that such a "jobs apocalypse" is unlikely: while one in four workers globally are in occupations with some degree of AI exposure, most jobs will be transformed rather than made redundant. This impact varies by gender, sector and a country's level of development. AI also has the potential to significantly increase productivity, which could lead to output expansion and the creation of new jobs; however, this effect remains debatable and may take years to manifest in the data. Beyond the job displacement and productivity effects, it is important to consider how AI alters demand for certain occupations and impacts wages and working conditions, which can have implications for inequality, as witnessed in earlier waves of technological change. In addition to taking stock of the latest empirical evidence, the paper outlines key policy areas, including skilling, protecting workers' rights, supporting small businesses and promoting AI uses cases for job intermediation, labour inspection and other labour market policy areas. Overall, a comprehensive policy approach is needed, backed by empirical evidence and social dialogue.

Human cogs in the AI machine: Experiences of data annotation and content moderation workers in the BPO sector in India and Kenya

Uma Rani, Senior Economist, International Labour Institute (ILO) Geneva

The hype surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) often focuses on the transformative potential of autonomous systems, which is based on sophisticated engineering, that seem to operate independently without broader and sustained human intervention. However, this narrative obscures the significant, often invisible human labour that underpins the entire AI lifecycle. The reality of AI development, which relies on heteromation (the combination of automated and human labour in complex systems), challenges this common perception that AI is a purely technological phenomenon by highlighting the continuous human involvement throughout the AI lifecycle. From data collection, cleaning and annotation of training data, to building models, training, testing and maintenance and refinement of algorithms to deployment, human input remains essential for the functioning of AI systems.

This presentation contributes to the growing literature on AI labour by providing an overview of the multifaceted ways human labour shapes AI systems. It moves beyond simplistic narratives of automation to show the importance of both data labour and algorithmic labour, and highlights their interconnectedness, and how the recognition of algorithmic labour can obscure the work done by data labour. We look at specific AI supply chains based on workers identified in our survey, which includes large language models (LLMs), autonomous vehicles, content moderation, and medical diagnostics. This

presentation illustrates the interactions and contributions of data labour and algorithmic labour in AI development. Finally, drawing on a limited sample of surveys conducted with data workers on microtask platforms and business process outsourcing (BPO) companies in Kenya and India, we explore their working conditions, arguing that ensuring decent working conditions, and engaging in social dialogue, is crucial for building a more sustainable and equitable AI ecosystem.

Biography of Speakers, Chairs and Discussants



AJIT RANADE

Ajit Ranade's thirty-five year career has spanned both academic and corporate assignments. He served as the Vice Chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Pune till October 2022. Prior to that he was Group Executive President and Chief Economist with the Aditya Birla Group, an Indian multinational conglomerate. Ranade has been a member of the executive committees of apex industry chambers CII, FICCI and MCCIA. Ranade has earlier taught at universities in the U.S.A. and in India. He has been a member of the board of several companies and trusts, and a columnist for over two decades, writing on economics and current topics. He is a co-author of an award-winning book "Rising to the China Challenge" (2021). Ranade is co-founder and trustee of Association for Democratic Reforms. He is a Trustee of the Pune International Centre and an Honorary Senior Fellow at the Takshashila Institution. Ranade was educated at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University. He received the Distinguished Alumnus award from IIT Bombay in 2009.



ALAKH N SHARMA

Alakh N Sharma is currently Professor and Director of the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi. A senior development economist, Professor Sharma has extensively worked in the areas of livelihoods, political economy, employment, labour markets and related issues. During his academic career spanning over 40 years, he has directed more than 40 research projects in the above areas and he has authored /edited/co-edited 18 books and published over 60 research papers in various reputed journals. He is Editor of the Indian Journal of Labour Economics (IJLE), the peer reviewed quarterly journal of the Indian Society of Labour Economics (published by Springer).



ALEXANDRE DE FREITAS BARBOSA

Alexandre de Freitas Barbosa is an economist and historian with a PhD in Economics from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP). Since 2009, he has been a Professor of Economic History, Brazilian Economy and International Economics at the Institute of Brazilian Studies of the University of São Paulo (IEB/USP). He is the coordinator of the “Rethinking Development” research hub at LabIEB and a CNPq Research Fellow. He recently co-authored, with Alexandre Macchione Saes, the book Celso Furtado: trajetória, pensamento e método (Autêntica, 2025). He also published the book Growth and inequality: the contrasting trajectories of India and Brazil (Cambridge University Press, 2017), co-authored with Gerry Rodgers and Maria Cristina Cacciamali. His primary research interests focus on Brazilian economic and social thought, labor and inequality in Brazil, and the economic and geopolitical relations between Latin America and China.



ARINDAM BANERJEE

Arindam Banerjee is Professor and Dean at School of Liberal studies, BML Munjal University. He has earlier taught at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, New Delhi, India and Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum and also been a visiting faculty at Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode. He teaches and researches in the area of agriculture and food systems, colonialism and political economy of development. He has published on issues like the agrarian crisis in India, colonialism, global food crisis, corn-ethanol and food-feed-fuel competition and food policy in India in journals like Development

and Change and Economic and Political Weekly. He has also co-edited the book Dispossession, Deprivation and Development: Essays for Utsa Patnaik. He has also worked with FAO and IFAD as external consultant.



ASHWANI SAITH

Ashwani Saith is Dean Emeritus, School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University, Emeritus Professor at the International Institute of Social Studies (of Erasmus University) The Hague, and Honorary Professor, Institute for Human Development. He read Economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and Trinity College, Cambridge, UK, where he obtained his Ph.D. He has been in research and teaching positions at the Delhi School of Economics; Faculty of Economics, Cambridge; Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford; and the London School of Economics, as the first Chair of Development Studies and Head of its Development Studies Institute. He has held various visiting professorships and editorial positions on leading journals and has researched and published extensively on a wide range of development themes. His recent research has been on Cambridge economics in the post-Keynesian era focussing on the purge of heterodox traditions and the rise to dominance of mainstream, neoclassical economics underpinning neoliberal ideology.



ATUL SARMA

Atul Sarma after completing tenure of Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar joined as Professor of Economics at Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. Previously, he was Professor of Economics and Head, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre., on the faculty of Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad; a Post doctoral Fellow at MIT, Cambridge. He was Visiting Professor at a number of universities in India and abroad. He served as an independent Director of Steel Authority of India, Limited., as Economic Adviser to the Eighth and Tenth Finance Commission and as a consultant to international agencies such as ADB, FAO, ESCAP and UNIDO. He was a Member of Technology Development Board, a Member, Assam State Planning Board and Manipur State Planning Board. He was Chairman ICSSR Institutes South Zone Review Committee and on various committees constituted by the Union and state governments, and by other agencies such as the Planning Commission, UGC, and ICSSR. He was President, Indian Econometric Society. Besides contributing over 100 articles in various Indian and international journals, and edited volumes, he published singly or jointly several books including

Exploring Indo Asian Economic Partnership in Globalising World, Meeting the Challenges to the European Union: Prospects of Indian Exports, Revenue and Expenditure Projections edited; Economic Impact of Government Expenditure: A Study in Input Output Framework and Regional variations in Industrial Development. He lead the research team for the preparation of UNDP sponsored Human Development Report for Arunachal Pradesh, the Planning Commission sponsored State

Development Report for Arunachal Pradesh and the Tea Board of India sponsored Occupational Mobility of Tea Labour in Assam. He was a Member of the Thirteenth Finance Commission of India.



BALWANT SINGH MEHTA

Balwant Singh Mehta has worked extensively in the areas of Information and Communication technology for development, labour, employment and child well-being. He has contributed several papers on these themes to various reputed national & international journals and books. His contributions to social research is acknowledged by several international organizations through fellowships and other awards such as the International Amy Mahan Fellowship in ICT4D (2010-11), by University of PompeuFabra, Barcelona; South Asian ICT4D Research Fellowship (2009-10) from Singapore Internet Research Centre, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; and the International Development Research Centre India Social Science Young Research Award (IDRC-SSRA) in 2009.



BINO PAUL

Bino Paul is a Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). He earned an MA in Development Economics from the University of Calicut in Kerala, before pursuing an MPhil in Planning and Development and a PhD in Economics from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB). With over two decades of experience in teaching and research, Bino specialises in Labour Economics, Sustainability Transition, Social Network Analysis, Micro Data Analytics, and Science, Technology, and Society.

He has published numerous scholarly papers in prestigious journals, including the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment, Scientific Reports (Nature), the Sustainable Development, the Sustainability, the Science, Technology and Society, the Journal of Small Business Management, the

Journal of the Knowledge Economy, the Asia Pacific Education Review, the Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management, the Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration, the VINE Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems, the Triple Helix Journal, the Industry and Labour, the Journal of Workplace Learning, the Journal of Social Structure, the European Journal of Comparative Economics, the Economic and Political Weekly, the Indian Journal of Labour Economics, the International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology, and the Indian Journal of Human Development. Bino has guided 28 PhD and 32 M.Phil. candidates over the past 15 years. As an educationist, he co-founded both Postgraduate and Undergraduate programs in Analytics and Sustainability Studies at TISS. From 2015 to 2018, he served as the Dean of the School of Management and Labour Studies at TISS. In November 2022, he assumed the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor at TISS, a role he held for 15 months.



C. VEERAMANI

C. Veeramani is a Professor of Economics and Director at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram. He is a leading scholar in international trade, industrial economics, foreign investment, and labour markets, with particular expertise in global value chains, trade and employment, exports and jobs, productivity, trade agreements, and India's trade performance in comparative perspective. He holds a PhD in Economics from CDS, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Prior to joining CDS as Director in 2023, he served for over a decade at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, as Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor, and earlier as faculty at IIT Bombay and Fellow at ICRIER, New Delhi. He has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. Prof. Veeramani has made significant contributions to policy, including authorship of a chapter in the Economic Survey of India 2019-20, and serves on several high-level advisory bodies such as the RBI's Empowered Committee on External Commercial Borrowings. He has held numerous academic leadership and administrative roles and coordinated multiple editions of the India Development Report published by Oxford University Press. An award-winning researcher, he has published extensively in leading national and international journals, edited influential volumes on trade and industrial development, and serves on the editorial boards of reputed economics journals. His work has substantially shaped academic and policy debates on trade, industrial performance, and labour market outcomes in India.



D. NARASIMHA REDDY

D. Narasimha Reddy, a noted development economist, is currently Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi and has been an ICSSR National Fellow and. He was formerly Professor of Economics and Dean, School of Social Sciences at the University of Hyderabad, where he taught for over two decades. His specialization includes science policy studies, the political economy of development and labour economics. During the last decade, he has worked extensively on globalization, WTO and agrarian crisis. His recent publications include a book on *Agrarian Crisis in India*(OUP). He was a member of the Farmers Welfare Commission set up by Andhra Pradesh Government to look into the issues of farmers; suicides and the agrarian crisis.



DEV NATHAN

Dev Nathan is an economist, who also works in an interdisciplinary manner. He is Professor, at the Institute for Human Development, Delhi; and holds visiting positions at The New School for Social Research, New York, and the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, WITS University, Johannesburg. He is also co-editor of the Cambridge University Press Series *Development Trajectories in Value Chains*. His areas of expertise are global value chains; labour practices; international trade; indigenous peoples; gender relations. Some of his recent publications are *Knowledge and Global Inequality Since 1800* (2024) in the UNU-WIDER Cambridge Elements in Development Economic; *Reverse Subsidies in Global Monopsony Capitalism* (co-author. 2022); *Witch Hunts: Culture, Patriarchy and Economic Transformation* (co-author). He is also co-editor of *Globalization, Value Chains and Development: Upgrading and Innovation in Asia*; and *Labour in Global Value Chains in Asia*.



DHIRAJ NAYYAR

Dhiraj Nayyar is an economist who has worked in senior positions in the government, media and corporate sectors. At present, Dhiraj is Director, Economics and Policy and Senior Vice President at Vedanta Resources, where he is a member of the Group Executive Committee. He is a columnist for *The Economic Times* and *Open Magazine*. Before joining Vedanta as Chief Economist in 2018, Dhiraj was Officer on Special Duty and Head of the Economics, Finance and Commerce vertical at NITI Aayog, Government of

India for three years. In this role, he was responsible for all policy matters related to India's Ministry of Finance and the Department of Commerce.

Dhiraj trained as an economist at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, Merton College, Oxford where was a Radhakrishnan Chevening Scholar and Trinity College, Cambridge where he was a Gates Cambridge Scholar. After a stint teaching development economics at the University of Cambridge, he switched to journalism. He was Opinion Editor of The Financial Express, Deputy Editor of India Today, Editor-at-large of Firstpost.com, India Columnist for Bloomberg View and Managing Editor of The Quint. He was also CEO of the Think India Foundation, a media active think tank. In 2013, Dhiraj was awarded a Bastiat Prize in journalism by the California-based Reason Foundation.



FARZANA AFRIDI

Farzana Afridi is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi) and a Research Fellow at the IZA (Bonn). Her research lies at the intersection of development and labor economics, covering three broad themes: gender and social identity; human capital; and governance. She has collaborated with governments, non-profits and businesses to conduct several field-based projects, using both administrative data and randomized experiments. Afridi's work contributes towards designing more effective transfer programs, understanding the role of information in improving health and learning outcomes, and assessing the impact of identity and networks on performance, productivity and labor market outcomes.

Afridi has taught economics, in various capacities, at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), Syracuse University, Delhi School of Economics, ISI, Geneva Graduate Institute, National University of Singapore, and the University of Toronto. She is a recipient of the National Mahalanobis Memorial Medal, conferred by The Indian Econometrics Society for contributions to quantitative economics.

FINN TARP

Finn Tarp, a development economist, is a University of Copenhagen (UCPH) Professor and Coordinator of the UCPH Development Economics Research Group (DERG). Formerly the Director of UNU-WIDER (2009–18) he is a leading international academic and policy expert on issues of development strategy



and foreign aid, with extensive research in poverty, inequality, agricultural sector policy and planning, household and enterprise development, and climate change, sustainability and natural resources. His publications include more than 140 articles in internationally refereed academic journals, including top journals such as *The Economic Journal*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *European Economic Review*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *World Development*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Land Economics*, *Food Policy*, *Review of Income and Wealth*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Feminist Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Journal of Development Studies*, and *Climatic Change* as well as regional journals including for example *Journal of African Economies*, *South African Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Asian Economics* and *China Economic Review* – alongside six books, thirty edited book volumes/special journal issues, seventy-three book chapters with leading international academic publishers plus a very large number of research reports and other studies and publications. He has extensive research and policy advisory background in countries such as Mozambique, Vietnam, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Myanmar. His h-index is 73.



GAURAV NAYYAR

Gaurav Nayyar is an Economic Adviser in the Development Economics Vice Presidency at the World Bank, which he joined as a Young Professional in 2013. Previously, he was an Economics Affairs Officer in the Economic Research Division of the World Trade Organization, where he co-led the World Trade Report 2013: Factors Shaping the Future of World Trade. He is the Director of the World Development Report 2026: Artificial Intelligence for Development.

Gaurav's research interests lie primarily in the areas of economic growth, structural transformation, trade, technological change, industrialization, and firm productivity, and he has published in a variety of academic journals on these issues. His previous books include *At Your Service? The Promise of Services-Led Development* and *The Service Sector in India's Development*. Gaurav holds a D.Phil in Economics from the University of Oxford, where he was a Dorothy Hodgkin Scholar. His other alma maters include the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Cambridge, and St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi.



HIMANSHU

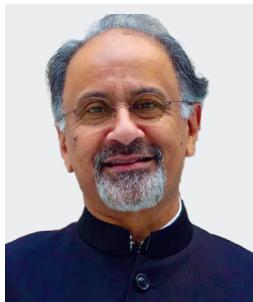
Himanshu is Associate Professor of Economics at Centre for Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is also visiting fellow at Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi. Prior to joining JNU, he has been a research fellow in economics at the Centre de Sciences Humaines and C R Parekh fellow at Asia Research Centre of the London School of Economics. His areas of research include issues related to poverty, inequality, employment, food security and agrarian change. He has been involved with various government committees including Expert Group on Measurement of Poverty (Tendulkar committee), National Statistical Commission and Ministry of Rural Development. Himanshu writes a fortnightly column on issues related to development in MINT. Himanshu has received the Sanjay Thakur Young Economist Award of the Indian Society of Labour Economics and Personnalité d' Avenir of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Himanshu received his Ph.D. in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University.



IMRAAN VALODIA

Imraan Valodia is Professor of Economics; Pro Vice-Chancellor: Climate, Sustainability and Inequality; and Director of the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits). His research interests include: inequality, climate justice, competition policy and industrial development and employment in developing countries.

Professor Valodia played a leading role in establishing and leading Wits University's Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS). The SCIS is a multi-disciplinary, cross-country initiative to promote research and policy change to advance greater equality. Professor Valodia serves on a number of national committees in South Africa, including the Competition Tribunal; the Presidential Economic Advisory Council; and the National Minimum Wage Commission; and is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (Assaf) Standing Committee on Science for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality. Internationally, Professor Valodia serves on the following boards: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD); UNAIDS Global Council on Inequality, AIDS and Pandemics; Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO); and the Global Development Institute.



INDERMIT GILL

Indermit Gill is the Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics at the World Bank Group, a position he assumed on September 1, 2022. Prior to this, he served as the World Bank's Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions, where he played a key role in shaping the Bank's response to the series of global shocks that have affected developing economies since 2020. Between 2016 and 2021, he was a Professor of Public Policy at Duke University and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Program.

Gill led the World Bank's influential 2009 World Development Report on economic geography and is widely recognised for introducing the concept of the "middle-income trap," which explains why some countries experience growth stagnation after reaching a certain income level. The World Development Report 2024, prepared under his guidance, focuses on strategies for countries to escape the middle-income trap by adopting modern technologies and fostering innovation. He has published extensively on key policy challenges facing developing countries, including sovereign debt vulnerabilities, green growth and natural-resource wealth, labour markets, and poverty and inequality. He has also taught at Georgetown University and the University of Chicago, and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago.



JAJATI KESHARI PARIDA

Jajati Keshari Parida is a full-time Professor at the School of Economics, University of Hyderabad. He holds a Ph.D. from the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, and has held various teaching and research positions at institutions such as University of Delhi, National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NITI Aayog), and Central University of Punjab. His research focuses on Employment and Labour Migration, Poverty, and Human Development, with his work published in prominent journals like the World Development, Social Indicators Research, Economic Change and Restructuring, and Economic and Political Weekly. Prof. Parida has contributed to various national policy reports, written for leading newspapers (like The Indian Express, The Hindu, The Financial Express, and The Hindustan Times etc.), and provided consultancy to ADB, Wadhwani Foundation (USA), Swiss Development Cooperation, Population Council of India, and the National Alliance for Social Security (NASS) etc. He is the recipient of the "L.K. Deshpande Young

Labour Economist" award in 2022 by ISLE and the "Best Researcher Award" in 2019 by Central University of Punjab. He is one of Associate editors of the Indian Journal of Labour Economics, and guest editors to a few journals. His co-authored book titled "India Out of Work" published by the Bloomsbury, London, is forthcoming in February 2026.

JAYAN JOSE



Jayan Jose Thomas is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, where he has been employed since July 2010. His research deals with various issues related to development, mainly labour, industrialization and the macroeconomy. He teaches courses on macroeconomics, Indian economic development, international economics, and planning and development. Jayan is a former Member of the Kerala State Planning Board. While India has been the primary focus of his research, Jayan has been maintaining a lively academic interest on China and East Asia as well. He has worked extensively using Indian and international data sources, conducted field studies, and also worked with archival material. His research papers have appeared in journals including World Development, Development and Change and Economic and Political Weekly. He contributes regularly to media outlets, including the Hindu, Frontline, and Livemint, and his research has been cited in the Government of India's Economic Survey, BBC, and the New York Times. His previous academic positions were at the National University of Singapore, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, Madras School of Economics, and Central University of Kerala. He has worked on research projects for the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). He received his B. Tech in Industrial Engineering from Kerala University and Ph.D. in Development Economics from the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.

JEEMOL UNNI



Jeemol Unni is Professor of Economics, Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad. Earlier was Director at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) and RBI Chair Professor, IRMA. Current and past member of technical committees of Niti Aayog, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and various state governments. Worked as an external collaborator and consultant to the International Labour Organisation. Past President, 63rd Labour Economics Conference, Indian

Society of Labour Economics, 2023. On the Editorial Board of the Indian Journal of Labour Economics (Springer) and the Journal of Development Policy and Practice (Sage Publications), New Delhi.



JYOTI CHANDIRAMANI

Jyoti Chandiramani has been the Director of Symbiosis School of Economics and Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Symbiosis International Deemed University (SIU) since 2010. Prof. Jyoti is also the Head of the Symbiosis Centre for Urban Studies (SCUS). She is an acclaimed educator, academician, researcher, and a social scientist ardently following a multidisciplinary approach. Her areas of expertise include urban infrastructure, urban mobility, urban poverty, urban economic development, international development cooperation, and India's Development Agenda towards the SDGs. She has publications in the domain of education and a couple of PhD scholars who have completed or are pursuing their PhD programs in the same area.

She has played a significant role in establishing one of India's leading schools of Economics, committed to providing students with an educational journey – of academic excellence and lifelong learning. She is also responsible for nurturing and creating the Symbiosis Centre for Urban Studies. Her research areas include topics associated with Urban Economic Development (urban poverty, urban infrastructure, urban mobility, urban policy, etc.).

Further, Prof. Jyoti keenly studies and follows contemporary trends in International Development Cooperation – from the MDGs to the SDGs and beyond. She is presently working on Pune - centric cases, which include census towns in the Pune district, calculating city GDP for Pune (PMC), future of growth in PMRDA, and growth strategies for districts of Maharashtra. She has been guiding a number of PhD scholars and has also undertaken various research projects and consultancy projects in collaboration with NABARD, NIUA, ITDP, Cybage India, Sulochana Thapar Foundation, and many other reputed think tanks in India. She also undertakes impact evaluation and assessments of corporate CSR initiatives.

K.P. KANNAN

K.P. Kannan, a development economist, is a former Fellow and Director and currently an Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Development Studies,



Trivandrum. He has had several assignments both at the national and international levels. He was a Member of the erstwhile National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS 2004-09) appointed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In 2008, he was conferred the first VV Giri Memorial Award for his contributions in the area of social security for workers in the informal sector. In 2016, he was awarded a National Fellowship by the Indian Council of Social Science Research. Professor Kannan has authored, co-authored or edited thirteen books as well as a number of research papers. His recent books include *Poverty, Women and Capability: A Study of Kerala's Kudumbashree System* (jointly with G. Raveendran), LBC, Trivandrum, 2023; *Labour and Development: Essays in honour of T.S. Papola* (edited along with Preet Rustagi and R.P. Mamgain), Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2016; *Interrogating Inclusive Growth: Poverty and Inequality in India*, Routledge, New Delhi, 2014; *The Long Road to Social Security* (ed jointly with Jan Breman), OUP, New Delhi, 2013; and *Of Rural Proletarian Struggles: Mobilization and Organization of Rural Workers in South-West India*, OUP, New Delhi, 1988.



KAUSHIK BASU

Kaushik Basu is Professor of Economics and Carl Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell University. From 2012 to 2016, he was Chief Economist of the World Bank and from 2009 to 2012 he served as Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India. He was president of the International Economic Association from 2017 to 2021. He is currently the N. R. Kamath Visiting Chair Professor at IIT Bombay. Educated at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and the London School of Economics, Kaushik Basu has published widely in development economics, game theory and moral philosophy. His books include *Analytical Development Economics*, Blackwell Publishers, *The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics*, Princeton University Press, and *Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C.*, Simon and Schuster. In 2021, he was awarded the Humboldt Research prize.

KUNAL SEN

Kunal Sen has over three decades of experience in academic and applied development economics research. He is the author of eight books and the editor of five volumes on the economics and political economy of



development. Since 2019 he has served as Director of UNU-WIDER while on leave from the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, where he is a professor of development economics.

Professor Sen is a leading international expert on the political economy of growth and development. He has performed extensive research on international finance, the political economy determinants of inclusive growth, the dynamics of poverty, social exclusion, female labour force participation, and the informal sector in developing economies. His research has focused on India, East Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. Professor Sen's books include *The Political Economy of India's Growth Episodes* (2016), *The Process of Financial Liberalization in India* (1997), and *The Economic Restructuring in East Asia and India: Perspectives on Policy Reform* (1995). He is a co-editor of *Deals and Development: The Political Dynamics of Growth Episodes* (2018) and *The Politics of Inclusive Development* (2016). And has also written twenty-five chapters in other volumes and published more than ninety peer-reviewed journal articles on topics in his field. In addition to his work as a professor of development economics, Kunal Sen has been the Joint Research Director of the Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) research centre, and a Research Fellow at the Institute for Labor Economics in Bonn. He has also served in advisory roles with national governments and bilateral and multilateral development agencies, including the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). He has been awarded the Sanjaya Lall Prize in 2006 and Dudley Seers Prize in 2003 for his publications.



LAKHWINDER SINGH

Lakhwinder Singh is currently Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi. He is President of the Society for Pathways to Sustainability (PathS). He has been the President of the 65th Indian Society of Labour Economics conference. Prior to this, Dr. Singh has been Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala, India where he has founded Centre for Development Economics and Innovation Studies (CDEIS). He has also served as a senior economist at the National Institute for Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi. Dr. Singh has been awarded prestigious scholarships such as Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Economics and Asia Fellow of International Institute for Education (IIE), New York. He has held several visiting positions including Yale University, USA and Seoul National University, South Korea. Dr. Singh

has teaching experience of more than 32 years and has successfully supervised 21 Ph.Ds. Professor Singh is Coordinator of Indialics-a Chapter of Globelics in India since 2012.

He is founding editor of *Millennial Asia-An International Journal of Asian Studies* since 2009 which is published by SAGE and indexed in SCOPUS and Clarivate Analytics (ESCI). He has contributed ten books and more than a hundred articles in various reputed journals and leading national newspapers. He has authored *Agrarian Distress and Farmer Suicides in North India* published by Routledge 2020 (second edition). His recently edited book is *Reimagining Innovation Systems in the Covid and Post-Covid World*. His specialization is Development Economics, Innovation Systems, Regional Economics, Area Studies, and Punjab Economy.



NAGESH KUMAR

Nagesh Kumar is the Director of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi. He also serves as a member of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), and as a non-resident senior fellow of UNU-WIDER and of Boston University- Global Development Policy Center. During 2009-21, he served as Director at UN-ESCAP, Bangkok. During 2002-09, Prof Kumar served as the Director-General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a think-tank of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. During 1993-98, he served as an Economist at UNU/MERIT, Maastricht, the Netherlands. Prof Kumar has served on the boards of the EXIM Bank of India, the International Centre for Trade & Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva, and the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Kathmandu. A PhD from the Delhi School of Economics, Prof Kumar is the recipient of the Exim Bank's first International Trade Research Award (1990) and a GDN research medal (2000).



N. R. BHANUMURTHY

N. R. Bhanumurthy is currently the Director at Madras School of Economics, Chennai. Prior to this, he served as first Vice- Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru. He was a faculty at NIPFP, New Delhi and at Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. His research areas are macro-monetary economics, fiscal policy, international money & finance, and development economics. He had brief stints at UNESCAP, Bangkok and at UNDP, Colombo, as Macroeconomist. He has served on various committees constituted by Finance Ministry, RBI, SEBI,

NITI Aayog, Ministry of Statistics, Ministry of Rural Development, National Statistical Commission, Ministry of Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Government of Karnataka, among others. He has received two prestigious awards: Mahalanobis Memorial Medal (National) Award in 2014; and "VKR Rao Prize in Social Sciences (Economics)" in 2015.

NEERAJ KAUSHAL



Neeraj Kaushal is Professor of Social Policy at Columbia University and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Kaushal is a labor and health economist and conducts research on immigration. Her academic research has been featured in *The New York Times*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, *the Washington Post*, and *The Times of India*. In her award-winning book, *Blaming Immigrants: Nationalism and the Economics of Global Movement*, Kaushal investigates the core causes of rising disaffection towards immigrants globally and tests common complaints against immigration. She writes a bi-weekly column in *The Times of India*, and monthly columns in *the Economic Times* and *Dainik Bhaskar*. Her co-directed documentary based on her research on tribal resettlement in India, *Dammed, but not Damned*, is available for viewing on Disney Hotstar. In her forthcoming book, *When Africa Comes to America: How the Next Wave of Immigrants Will Transform the United States* will be available in Spring 2026.

NITYA NANDA



Nitya Nanda is an economist and a public policy analyst with about three decades of experience in research, consulting and teaching. Currently, he is a professor at the Council for Social Development, a social science think tank based in New Delhi. Earlier he was with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), CUTS International and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). He received his education at the University of Calcutta and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Currently he works majorly on social development and social protection issues but his areas of interest also include international trade, industrialization, and energy and environment issues. He has been a consultant for several UN organizations, including UNCTAD, UNESCAP, and UNDP; and the European Commission. He has also been a consultant for different government ministries and agencies in India and contributed to formulating policies. He has published

many articles in journals and edited books, as well as pieces in magazines and newspapers. He has also authored and edited several volumes, including *Expanding Frontiers of Global Trade Rules: The Political Economy Dynamics of the International Trading System* (2009), *Hydro-Politics in GBM Basin: The Case of Bangladesh-India Water Relations* (2015), *India's Resource Security: Trade, Geo-politics and Efficiency Dimensions* (2018), and *India's Industrial Policy and Performance: Growth, Competition and Competitiveness* (2021).



PRAVEEN JHA

Praveen Jha is Sukhamoy Chakravarty Chair Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), and an Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies (CISLS), School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. His areas of teaching and research interests include: Political Economy of Development, with particular reference to Labour, Agriculture and Education. His other areas of interest are Natural Resources, Public Finance and History of Economic Thought.

He has been a Visiting Fellow/Professor to several institutions/universities, including University of Bremen, Germany; Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin, China; Rhodes University, Makhanda (Grahamstown), South Africa; Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies, Harare, Zimbabwe; International Labour Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland; Leipzig University, Germany; and Kassel University, Germany. He has been associated with several research studies with UN institutions such as the ILO, the UNICEF, the UNDP, and the FAO etc., and several think tanks in India and abroad.

Apart from being one of the founding editors of the journal *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, he is on the editorial/advisory board of a few well-known journals. He has authored/edited more than twenty books and monographs, and has published well over a hundred articles in journals and as book chapters.

PRAVAKAR SAHOO

Pravakar Sahoo is currently Senior Lead, NITI Aayog. Prior to joining NITI Aayog, Dr. Pravakar Sahoo was a professor at Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) teaching Macroeconomics and International Economics to Indian



Economic Service (IES) probationers. He has 22 years of teaching and research experience at many academic and research institutes that include ICRIER, India; Bruegel, Belgium; East West Center, USA; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan; University of Saitama, Japan; University Antwerp, Belgium; PRI, MoF, Japan; Institute of

Developing Economies (IDE), Japan; MSH, France; and RIIO, China. He has work experience on India, South Asia, Japan, Korea, China, US. Apart from teaching, he works on policy relevant projects for both national and international agencies. During last 22 years of experience, he has

published few books, more than 60 academic papers in international and national journals, number of book chapters and other academic papers on Macroeconomics, International Trade & Investment, Economic Development, Public Finance, Regional Cooperation and Infrastructure, mostly relating to India and other Asian countries. He regularly contributes to newspapers and other media forums on policy relevant issues.



RAJENDRA P. MAMGAIN

Rajendra P. Mamgain is a development economist with over three decades of experience in research, teaching, and policy engagement. He holds a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and specialises in labour and employment, migration, education and skill development, poverty, inclusive development, and impact evaluation of government programmes. He has authored/co-authored 11 books, completed around 30 policy-oriented research studies, and published over 60 research papers in reputed national and international journals. Currently, he is Professor of Economics and Head, School of Social Sciences, Doon University, Dehradun. Previously, he served as Chair Professor of the S.R. Sankaran Chair (Rural Labour) at NIRDPR, Hyderabad, Director and Professor at the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, Professor at Giri Institute of Development Studies, and Senior Academic Consultant at ICSSR. He has also been associated with the Institute for Human Development and the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development. Dr. Mamgain has been a consultant to several national and international organisations, a member of multiple policy advisory bodies, and serves as editor or editorial board member of reputed journals. His work on urban labour markets, youth employment, and outmigration in Uttarakhand has significantly influenced academic debate and public policy. He is a Fellow of the Global Labour Organization, Maastricht, and has played a key role in strengthening labour economics research networks and organising major academic conferences in India.



RAHUL S

Rahul S is an academic and research professional with expertise in sustainable development, sustainability transitions, labour and global value chains, and data-driven policy research. He is an assistant professor at the School of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He primarily teaches postgraduate programs in Analytics and Sustainability Studies, Labour and Development, and Micro and Macro Datasets and coordinates research and development activities of the institute. He holds a PhD from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. He is also a research consultant for organisations focusing on human rights due diligence issues, global value chains, and wage and employment loss estimation.



RAMA BIJAPURKAR

Business advisor, independent director on boards of blue-chip corporate and academic institutions, researcher, author, columnist and academic, Rama Bijapurkar is a recognized thought leader on business-market strategy and India's consumer economy, as well as a keen commentator on social and cultural change in India. She describes her work as 'bringing the 'people view' to business strategy and public policy'. Rama has been a long time visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and is a dominant voice in the media on business and policy issues through her writing. She is the author of influential books on Consumer India and on customer-based business strategy. Her most recent book is "Lilliput Land – How 'Small' is Driving India's Mega Consumption Story"



RAM SINGH

Ram Singh is Professor and Director at the Delhi School of Economics (DSE), University of Delhi. He holds Ph.D. (JNU, New Delhi) and Post-Doctorate Degrees in economics from Harvard University. His areas of research interests are contract theory, public economics, public private partnerships, and law and economics. He has widely published in national and international journals. He is a recipient of Fulbright, Commonwealth, Erasmus Mundus Fellowships and Ronald Coase Fellowships in Economics. He has also taught at Brown University, University of Hamburg and Jawaharlal Nehru University, and has been Commonwealth Fellow at the London School of Economics. He is Co-editor of the Indian Economic Review.



RAJEEV MALHOTRA

Rajeev Malhotra bridges the world of academics and policymaking with a professional work experience of over 37 years. He is currently a Senior Fellow at Centre for Contemporary Studies, PMML, Teen Murty Bhavan, New Delhi. He is a visiting professor at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and Mohali. From August 2012 to September 2023, he was Professor and Director Public Policy Programmes at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Delhi NCR. As a development economist and a civil servant, he has worked with the Government of India where until August 2012 he was Economic Adviser to the then Union Finance Minister of India. From 2002 to 2008, he worked at UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and prior to that at the Planning Commission, New Delhi. Prof. Malhotra has been frequently engaged as a consultant with international organizations and at national level in Asia, Africa and in the South Pacific Island countries. He has published widely in books, journals, reports and some popular media writings.



RAMESH CHAND

Ramesh Chand is a Member of National Institution for Transforming India, NITI Aayog, the apex think-tank of Government of India. In addition, he is also a member of the Integrated Partnership Board (IPB) of the CGIAR and member of the Policy Advisory Council (PAC) of the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). In the past, he was a Member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of Government of India, Member of Board of Trustees of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Mexico and Member of Global Future Council on the Future of Food Security and Agriculture, World Economic Forum for 2016-18 term. Prof. Chand has a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India. He has been actively involved in policy research and formulation in the areas of agriculture and allied sectors, food security, nutrition, science policy, impact analysis, food systems etc. and has worked in senior academic positions at National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi, Institute of Economic Growth and Punjab Agricultural University. He was Visiting Professor at University of Wollongong, NSW Australia and at Institute of Developing Economies, Chiba Shi, Japan. He has also been Consultant with international organizations such as FAO, UNDP, ESCAP, UNCTAD, Commonwealth and World Bank. Chand has authored seven books and published more than 100 research papers in reputed national and international journals in the areas of agriculture

growth and development, demand and supply, food policy, farmers' issues, agricultural markets and trade. In recognition of his contributions, Prof. Ramesh Chand has received several national and international awards.



RENANA JHABVALA

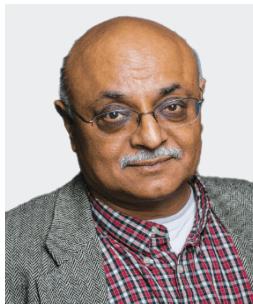
Renana Jhabvala currently serves as the President of SEWA Bharat. In this capacity, she offers strategic guidance and leadership to the organisation. Her role has been pivotal in organising informal women workers, helping them collectivise for better access to their rights and form cooperatives, collective enterprises, and financial institutions.

She has been associated with SEWA since 1978 in a number of roles within the SEWA movement, with a particular focus on overseeing the movement's expansion and diversification. In 1990, she was awarded the Padma Shri from the Government of India for her contributions to the field of social work. She is also the Co-Founder of WIEGO and served as its Chairperson (2009-2019). She was a Member of UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (2016-2017) and Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural University (2012-2017). As a critical thought leader in the space of women's work, she has made critical contributions to an understanding of informality, measuring women's work, basic income, and most recently, was a key voice for women's representation in the G20 proceedings under the Indian presidency.

She is a prolific author – some of her recent publications include *The City-Makers: How Women are Building a Sustainable Future for Urban India*, co-authored by Bijal Brahmbhatt, Hachette India (2020); *Basic Income: A Transformative Policy for India*, co-edited by Sarath Davala, Soumya Kapoor Mehta & Guy Standing, Bloomsbury Publication (2014) and *The Idea of Work*, which she co-authored with Elaben R. Bhatt, Indian Academy of Self Employed Women (2012). She currently serves as the Chairperson, SEWA Grahin Limited (SEWA housing finance company) and is also the Chairperson of HomeNet South Asia (2007 – present).

RAVI KANBUR

Ravi Kanbur researches and teaches in development economics, public economics and economic theory. He is well known for his role in policy analysis and engagement in international development. He has served on



the senior staff of the World Bank including as Chief Economist for Africa. He has also published in the leading economics journals, including *Journal of Political Economy*, *American Economic Review*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Economic Theory* and *Economic Journal*.

The positions he has held include: Chair of the Board of United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research, Co-Chair of the Food System Economics Commission, Co-Chair of the Scientific Council of the International Panel on Social Progress, member of the OECD High Level Expert Group on the Measurement of Economic Performance, President of the Human Development and Capability Association, President of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, member of the High Level Advisory Council of the Climate Justice Dialogue, and member of the Core Group of the Commission on Global Poverty.



RAVI SRIVASTAVA

Ravi Srivastava is currently a Professor and Director, Centre for Employment Studies, Institute for Human Development, Delhi. He was earlier Professor of Economics and Chairperson, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and full-time Member (2006-09) of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS), in the rank of Secretary, Government of India. He received his education in the University of Allahabad, the Delhi School of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and University of Cambridge, UK. He is a recipient of numerous awards and scholarships including the Commonwealth and the Fulbright Fellowship; the University Grant Commission's award in economics (2001) for innovative research on poverty, and the V. V. Giri Memorial Award (2009) for research on labour migration. He is former Chairman of the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. He has been member and chairperson of a number of committees of the University Grants Commission, MHRD, Planning Commission, and Member of the ICSSR Governing Council for two terms and member of Governing Boards, Academic Council, Executive Council, and Board of Studies of a number of universities and institutes.

RITU DEWAN

Ritu Dewan is currently Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi. She has been President of the 64th Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, Co-Founder of Feminist Policy



Collective, Trustee of Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Trustee of The India Forum, Director of The Leaflet, President of Indian Association for Women's Studies (2014-17), President of Alumni Association of Mumbai School of Economics ; Public Policy, Vice President of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (2019-22). She was the first-ever woman Director of the Department of Economics, University of Mumbai, and founder-member of the first Centre for Gender Economics in Asia. She has over 250 publications, including 56 books & monographs, encompassing a wide range of issues including Development Economics, Gender Studies & Gender Economics, Rural Employment; Urban Development, Infrastructure, Labour Markets, Environmental Displacement, Peace Studies, etc. Her research focus – which interlinks academics, advocacy and action – is the result of issues related to the marginalised. Her last three books are *Invisible Work Invisible Workers: The Sub-Economies of Paid and Unpaid Work*; *Demonetisation: From Deprivation to Destitution*, and *Patriarchy and Precarity: Labour, Livelihood and Mobility Rights*.



S CHANDRASEKHAR

SChandrasekhar, an alumnus of Delhi School of Economics and Pennsylvania State University, is Professor at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. He was awarded the Mahalanobis Memorial Medal 2016 by The Indian Econometric Society, for outstanding contributions to the field of quantitative economics. He has worked extensively on commuting, internal migration, and income and consumption inequality. He has a keen interest in data standards and improving data quality. Presently, he is a member of the Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys.



S. MADHESWARAN

S. Madheswaran is an eminent Development Economist and Econometrician of national repute, widely recognized for his distinguished contributions to research, policy, and institution-building in India. He currently serves as Adviser to Jain University and ICRISAT, and as Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD). He has earlier held the prestigious RBI Chair Professorship and was Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru. He also served as Director of ISEC—one of the premier research institutes under the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)—and as Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI).

Dr. Madheswaran has played a pivotal role in public policy formulation and governance, having served on deputation as Adviser (equivalent to Secretary to the State Government) to the Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department, Government of Karnataka. He was instrumental in drafting Karnataka's landmark Evaluation and Monitoring Policy (2010), which laid the foundation for the establishment of the Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA). He subsequently became the first Chief Evaluation Officer and a founding member of KEA, India's pioneering independent evaluation office at the state level.

As a scholar, Dr. Madheswaran has an extensive publication record in leading international and national journals, with influential work spanning the Economics of Education, Labour Economics, Health Economics, Environmental Economics, Public Policy, and Applied Econometrics. His career uniquely bridges rigorous empirical research and high-impact policy practice, making him one of the most respected voices in evidence-based development policy in the country.



S. MAHENDRA DEV

S. Mahendra Dev is presently Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). He was the Director and Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai for 12 years during 2010-2022. Prior to this position, he was Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Ministry of Agriculture from 2008 to 2010. He was Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, D.C. He was also a member of the Board of IFPRI for seven years from 2013 to 2019. He was member and Acting Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, Government of India. He got the prestigious Malcolm Adisesaiah Award in 2016. He was Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, India for 9 years from 1999 to 2008. He is a member of executive committee of the International Economic Association. He did a Ph.D. from the Delhi School of Economics and a post-doctoral degree from Yale University, USA.

He is Chairman of the Institute for Development Studies, Andhra Pradesh and Distinguished Professor at ICFAI Faculty of Social Sciences, Hyderabad. He was an independent director in Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank. He is currently the Association President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing. He was Association President of the Indian Economic Association for three years 2018 to 2021. He was conference President

of the Indian Econometric Society (TIES), Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Indian Society of Labour Economics, and Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI).

His main areas of interest are development economics, agricultural economics and macroeconomics. He has around 150 research publications in national and international journals in the areas of agricultural development, poverty and public policy, inequality, food security, nutrition, employment guarantee schemes, social security, farm and nonfarm employment. He has written or edited 23 books. His well cited publication is "Inclusive Growth in India: Agriculture, Poverty, and Human Development" published by Oxford University Press. His book "Perspectives on Equitable Development" was released by the former Prime Minister of India.

He has been a consultant and adviser to many international organizations, such as UNDP, World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute, UNESCO, ILO, FAO, ESCAP, UNICEF, DFID, and OECD. He has been a member of several government committees in India, including the Prime Minister's Task Force on Employment chaired by Dr. Montek Ahulwalia, advisory committee for the National Commission on the Enterprises in the Unorganized sector, member of the Committee on Financial Inclusion chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan, member of the Expert Group on Poverty chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Terms of Trade on Agriculture constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture. He was a member of several working groups for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Five-Year Plans in India. He is also a member of several committees of NITI Ayog. He has received honors for eminence in public service. He got awards for best teacher in economics and outstanding contribution to education. He received honorary doctorate (D.Litt) from the Acharya Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh.



SACHIN CHATURVEDI

Sachin Chaturvedi is currently the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University. Before joining Nalanda, he was associated with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi based think tank, where he worked extensively on issues of development economics, including development finance, SDGs, South-South cooperation and global trade, investment and innovation linkages, with a special focus on the WTO.

A distinguished scholar and institution builder, Professor Chaturvedi has played a pivotal role in launching several major global and national networks

such as the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST), the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), and the Delhi Process, a key platform for dialogue on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

He has been closely associated with several initiatives of the Government of India and continues to contribute to shaping evidence-based and integrated economic policymaking. Widely regarded as one of India's foremost voices on external economic engagement and partnerships, Professor Chaturvedi is also admired by peers for his dynamism, mentorship and leadership in the academic and policy community.

An accomplished author and editor, he has published or edited over 22 books, contributed chapters to numerous edited volumes, and written extensively in reputed journals. His acclaimed book "The Logic of Sharing: Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation" is internationally recognized as a leading work on development cooperation. He also serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including the South Asian Economic Journal and the IDS Bulletin (University of Sussex, UK).

Professor Chaturvedi has held visiting positions at several leading global institutions, including the MacMillan Center for International Affairs at Yale University (as Global Justice Fellow, 2009–10), Jawaharlal Nehru University, the University of Amsterdam, the Institute of Advanced Studies (Shimla), and the German Development Institute. He currently serves as an Independent Director on the Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

SHER SINGH VERICK



Sher Singh Verick is Head of the Employment Strategies Unit in the Employment Policy Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva. Prior to this position, he was Manager of the Employment Policy and Analysis Programme of the International Training Centre of the ILO and Deputy Director of the ILO Decent Work Team for South Asia and Country Office for India. He has also worked for the UN and various research institutions in Europe and Australia. He holds a master's degree in development economics from the Australian National University and a doctorate in economics from the University of Bonn. Since December 2004, he is a Research Fellow of the Institute for Labor Economics (IZA). He has published in a range of journals and has authored or edited a number of volumes, including the *Transformation of Women at Work in Asia: An Unfinished Development Agenda* (2016).



SUDIPTO MUNDEL

Sudipto Mundle is Chairman of the Board of Centre for Development Studies, India, and serves on the boards of several other organisations. Formerly he was an Emeritus Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and distinguished Fellow at the National Council of Applied Economic Research. He was also a member of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, India, the erstwhile Monetary Policy Advisory Committee of the Reserve Bank of India and the National Statistical Commission, where he also acted as Chairman. He is the current President and a life member of the Indian Econometric Society.

He spent much of his career until 2008 at the Asian Development Bank, Manila, where he held several positions including that of a Director in the Strategy and Policy Department as his final assignment. In his earlier career in India, he served in a number of academic institutions including the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, and NIPFP, New Delhi, where he was the Reserve Bank Chair Professor. He was an economic adviser in India's Ministry of Finance from 1986 to 1989.

Dr. Mundle graduated from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, in 1969 and has a Ph.D. in economics from the Delhi School of Economics. He was a Fulbright Scholar at Yale University, USA; a Joan Robinson Memorial Fellow at King's College, Cambridge University, UK and has also had visiting assignments at the Institute of Social Studies at the Hague and the Japan Foundation, Tokyo. His current research interests include development economics, fiscal and monetary policy, macroeconomic modelling, forecasting and governance. He has published several books and papers in professional journals. He is also a regular columnist for the financial newspaper Mint.



SWAMINATHAN S. ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar is a research fellow at the Cato Institute with a special focus on India and Asia. His research interests include economic change in developing countries, human rights and civil strife, political economy, energy, trade, and industry. He is a prolific columnist and TV commentator in India, well-known for a popular weekly column titled "Swaminomics" in the Times of India. He is the author of *Escape from the Benevolent Zookeepers—The Best of Swaminomics* (New Delhi: Times of India, 2008) and has been called "India's leading economic journalist" by Stephen Cohen of the Brookings Institution. He has been the editor of India's two biggest financial dailies, the Economic Times and Financial Express,

and was the India correspondent of The Economist for two decades. He has frequently been a consultant to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Swami spends part of the year in India and part in the United States. He holds a master's degree in economics from Oxford University, United Kingdom

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Prof. Anant received his Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University and his MA in Economics from Delhi School of Economics. He was Assistant Professor in Economics at Michigan State University, USA, and Reader and then Professor in DSE, where he started the course on Law and Economics in the MA program. His research has covered a wide range of areas, including Labor Economics, Industrial Economics, Law and Economics and Econometrics.

UMA RANI



Uma Rani is Senior Economist at the Research Department, International Labour Office (ILO) in 2008. She holds a Ph.D in Development Economics from University of Hyderabad, India. Her main research interest lies in the digital economy, global supply chains, informal sector, minimum wages, social policies and gender. Since 2016 she has been working on digital transformations in the world of work, wherein she tries to explore how labour and social institutions could be strengthened to address economic and social inequality. She works in the area of digital labour platforms, algorithmic management in regular workplaces and AI supply chains. She

coordinated the flagship report of the ILO on "World Employment and Social Outlook 2021: The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work" and is currently co-editing a volume on "From Taylorism to algorithmic management: A multi-sector analysis of technology, control and worker experiences".



VINOJ ABRAHAM

Vinoj Abraham is a Professor holding Ministry of Commerce Chair at Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Apart from teaching, supervision and research, he coordinates the Commerce Ministry funded 'National Research Programme on Plantation Development at the Centre. His areas of research include: Labour Economics, Development Economics, Gender and Development, Plantation Studies. He has an MPhil and Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Currently, he is Member, Research Group of NITI Aayog to study gig and Platform workers in India; he is also working on a project on child migration in South India funded by UNICEF; completing works on four different projects relating to labour, problems of collectivisation and livelihood diversification. He teaches courses relating to labour markets and Development Economics at CDS. He has published extensively in journals, contributed to reputed edited volumes, edited two books and has been appearing on print and electronic media. He has been referee to a number of highly reputed journals and book publishers and has served as editorial board member in reputed journals. He has been associated with and completed 10 international projects with other CDS faculty members, funded by Planning Commission, NIBR, Norway; Asian Development Bank; European Commission for Research and Technology Development; IDRC Canada, UNCTAD India; Shastri Indo-Canadian Fellowship, UNICEF India and ICSSR.

About Deepak Nayyar



Deepak Nayyar is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. Earlier, he taught at the University of Oxford, the University of Sussex, and the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. He served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi from 2000 to 2005. He was Distinguished University Professor of Economics at the New School for Social Research, New York, from 2008 to 2012. And he was invited to the Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the South at the United States Library of Congress, Washington DC, for the academic year 2022-23.

His professional life in academia has been interspersed with short periods in the government. He was, to start with, in the Indian Administrative Service, in the Uttar Pradesh cadre, from 1969 to 1973. Subsequently, he was also engaged with the world of public policy. He was Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, from 1983 to 1985. Later, he served as Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, from 1989 to 1991. Professor Nayyar is Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, in Britain, since 2020. He was Chairman of the Board of the World Institute for Development Economics Research, UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, from 2001 to 2008. He was Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Department of International Development, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, from 2004 to 2007. He was on the Board of Directors of the Social Science Research Council in the United States from 2001 to 2007. He was Vice President of the International Association of Universities, Paris, from 2004 to 2008.

He served as a member of many commissions, both national and international. He was a Member of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, established by the ILO, from 2002 to 2004. He was Vice Chairman of the South Centre, Geneva, from 2011 to 2014 and Member of its Board from 2005 to 2011. He was a Member of the National Knowledge Commission in India from 2005 to 2009.

Professor Nayyar is Chairman of the Sameeksha Trust, which publishes Economic and Political Weekly. He is, at present, Chairman of the Board for the Institute of Human Development, New Delhi. He was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, from 2014 to 2025. He was also President of the Indian Society for Labour Economics from 2014 to 2025. He has also served as a Director on the Board of several firms in the corporate sector in India: Press Trust of India, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Steel Authority of India, ICRA (Indian Credit Rating Agency), Maruti Udyog, Export-Import Bank of India, State Bank of India, and State Trading Corporation of India. He was educated at St. Stephen's College and the Delhi School of Economics. Thereafter, as a Rhodes Scholar, he went on to study at Balliol College, University of Oxford, where he obtained a B. Phil and a D. Phil in Economics.

He has received the VKRV Rao award for his contribution to research in Economics, and the Malcolm Adiseshiah award for his lifetime contribution to Development Studies. His research interests are in the areas of international economics, development economics, macroeconomics, political economy and economic history. His publications, numerous articles in professional journals and several books – span a wide range of themes. His recent books, Resurgent Asia and Asian Transformations, published by Oxford University Press, Oxford, analyze the remarkable economic transformation, and rise, of Asia during the past half-century.

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